THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) A meeting of the Committee of Secretaries (CoS) was held on 2.06.04, to review DoPT's instructions dated 14.07.1981, regarding mandatory purchases of stationery/other items from Multi State Co-operative Societies. Taking various factors into account, including that the co-operative were employing a large number of personnel, CoS recommended that purchases up to Rs. 10,000/- may be made directly from Kendriya Bhandar/NCCF on listed prices without any tender. It was also recommended that purchase between Rs. 10,000/- Rs. 2,00,000/- would require limited tender from all cooperatives and purchases beyond Rs. 2 lakh would be through open tenders. The CoS recommendation was intended to align the then prevailing purchase preference to Kendriya Bhandar etc. with the General Financial Rules, 1963. However, new/updated GFRs were promulgated with effect from July, 2005, wherein the existing limit for purchases of stationery and other articles have also been revised. Accordingly, as per Rule 145 of GFRs, 2005, purchase of goods up to the value of Rs. 15,000/- may be made without inviting quotations or bids on the basis of a certificate. Also, as per Rule 146 of GFRs, purchase of goods costing between Rs. 15,000/- to Rs. 1,00,000/- may be made on the recommendations of a Local Purchase Committee. However, the issue regarding special dispensation to Kendriya Bhandar etc. is being reviewed in consultation with DoPT, as assured by the Hon'ble Finance Minister on 9th March, 2007, while responding to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 168.

Increase in Benami Deals

2335. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that benami deals and incidents of tax avoidance has increased after foreign direct investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any proposal has been sent for checking these deals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) No empirical evidence/study has

come to notice indicating a casual relation between benami deals and tax avoidance on one hand and foreign direct investment on the other.

Disbursement of Kisan Credit Cards to Farmers

†2336. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Kisan Credit Cards issued to farmers during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of Kisan Credit Cards issued by various banks during the said period;

(c) the details of used Kisan Credit Cards held by farmers during the said period; and

(d) the amount released against these credit cards during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Maintenance of Minor's Account by DP's

2337. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Security Depository Limited (NSDL) has directed the Depository Participants (DPs) to maintain minor's account in single name only;

(b) whether it is also a fact that NSDL has also warned to penalize DPs in case minor's accounts are maintained jointly with Natural Guardian/HUFs;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reason for such a move causing a lot of hardships to account holders/HUFs having joint accounts with minors; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to scrap such improper move of NSDL in order to avoid legal hurdles by natural guardians

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.